

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler, who has hosted over 100 town hall-style events since coming to office, today voiced his support for a plan to cap New Jersey’s highest-in-the-nation property taxes. Congressman Adler today endorsed a stricter property tax cap, as well as other commonsense measures to reduce the burden on taxpayers. Congressman Adler, who introduced legislation to give families a 100-percent property tax deduction on their federal income tax, released the following statement:

“New Jersey has become unaffordable for too many middle class families, seniors and small business owners.

“South Jersey and Shore-area families demand and deserve property tax relief. I applaud Governor Christie and Senate President Sweeney for beginning to tackle New Jersey’s most critical problem – spiraling property taxes. Our state deserves bipartisan solutions to its problems, and I pledge to continue to work with leaders of both parties on this issue.

“Our state needs to spark private sector growth, not more government spending and bureaucracy. A property tax cap can help rein in government spending and leave more money in the pockets of families and businesses.

“We need to end government fraud, waste and abuse. The property tax reform effort includes commonsense measures to curb wasteful government spending. Our state can no longer tolerate pension system loopholes or inefficient local services. I support these overdue measures to reduce spending and our taxes.”

### **Background:**

**Property Tax Convention:** In the State Senate, John Adler, along with State Senator Leonard Lance, was the primary sponsor of legislation to create a property tax convention. He introduced this measure during multiple Legislative Sessions, only to be rebuked by his party and Governors McGreevy and Corzine. Adler stated that state legislators “lack the political will” to solve the property tax crisis and that their “partisanship and their desire to get re-elected

completely impede the way to reform.” [Courier Post, 10/13/2004]

**One of Four Democrats to Oppose a Weak Property Tax Cap:** Senator Adler was one of only four Democratic State Senators who bucked party leaders and voted against the unsustainable 4 percent cap on property tax increases. Adler argued that the cap had been weakened by special interests and allowed municipalities to easily exceed the cap. During a floor speech, Senator Adler correctly stated that he believed such a high cap will only exacerbate the problem and prevent the Legislature from enacting real reform. [Star Ledger, 2/28/2007; State Senate Floor Speech, 2/5/2007, [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/archive\\_audio2.asp?KEY=S&SESSION=2006](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/archive_audio2.asp?KEY=S&SESSION=2006)]

**Adler Stated Spending Cuts Needed to Lower Property Taxes:** In the State Senate, Adler consistently stated his desire to see spending cuts as a way to balance the budget and lower taxes for families. For example, in a 2006 release, he stated, “We need more action to end the property tax crisis. We need to keep pressing ahead for more efficiencies, more spending cuts and more ways to eliminate waste.” [Sen. Adler: More efficiencies are needed for school reforms, 12/7/2006]

**Adler a strong advocate for ending unfunded mandates and consolidating school districts and other bureaucracies in New Jersey:** He strongly advocated for consolidating services in towns with populations under 10,000 and school districts with fewer than 3,000 students. He introduced and passed S-335, a bill that would allow municipalities to share courtroom facilities and support staff. When the bill passed, Adler stated: “In New Jersey, we have more levels of government than we can afford. State government must do more to allow, encourage, and if necessary, mandate shared services and cost savings on the municipal level. Property taxes are just too high, and we must seek more efficiency in how we offer government services - from Governor down to local dog-catcher.” [Adler Bill to Pave Way for Shared Courtroom Facilities Advances, 3/3/2008]

**Adler Wrote the Law to Strip Corrupt Public Officials of their State Pensions:** State Senator Adler authored the law that would strip a public official convicted of abusing their office of their state pensions. The bill was opposed by CWA and the Democratic Attorney General. State Senator Adler stated that the high rate of corruption in New Jersey increases everyone’s property taxes through New Jersey’s generous pension system.

**Philadelphia Inquirer Praises Adler for Standing Up to His Party on Property Taxes:** In 2007, the Philadelphia Inquirer stated: “Adler has an exemplary record in the Senate, where he was first elected in 1992. He was primary sponsor of the state's indoor smoking ban and has been willing to buck his party occasionally; for example, opposing this year's property-tax rebates as a ‘one-year fix.’”